(b) whether it is also a fact that the school authorities do not adequately sensitise parents and students to avail such facilities and opportunities;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such facilities remain unutilized by the students due to lack of trained instructors; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Extra-curricular activities form an integral part of the teaching-learning process. Periods are ear-marked for each class for games, cultural activities etc. Parent teachers associations are being associated in school activities. Proper attention is given for the optimal utilizaion of facilities for extra-curricular activities. Physical Education Teachers, Music Teachers & Drawing Teachers are posted in Vidyalayas.

(d) Does not arise.

Study centres and course co-ordinators of IGNOU

2426. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the study centres and course co-ordinators at the study centres of IGNOU are chosen;

(b) whether IGNOU exercises regular quality control over the performance of such study centres and course co-ordinators and IGNOU has evolved any system of gradation of study centres;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and if so, the category-wise details thereof;

(d) whether Government are aware of the lack of library, laboratory and other teaching infrastructure in the study centres of IGNOU in remote towns; and

(e) whether Government are also aware of the cases of teacher absenteeism and irregular classes at the study centres of IGNOU in remote towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As per the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) the study centres are chosen on the basis of need based assessment made by the concerned Regional Centre. At Study centres, the University hires the services of senior academics of the institutions to coordinate all administrative and academic matters related to the functioning of the Centre. For this, the Head of the host institution or his nominee out of a panel of three names from amongst the regular teachers of the institution is appointed as cordinator with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU.

(b) and (c) IGNOU has informed that it exercises regular quality conrol by monitoring the reports of the counselling sessions and evaluation of assignments. Officials of the University visit the centres and obtain necessary information for further examination. At the end of the academic year the University assesses the performance of its coordinators and Academic Counsellors of the study centres and hiring contracts of well performing individuals are renewed. The University has also embarked up on a novel scheme of identifying the best Regional Centre every year and awarding it with a gold medal. Selection of best Regional Centre is made considering the growth of student enrolment, growth of Study Centres, cost effectiveness, Introduction of innovative methods and Use of technoloy for learning and teaching.

(d) and (e) The University has informed that 72 learner support centres have been established at remote areas of the country. Out of them 07 are activated for the B.Sc. Programme and 07 are activated for the BLIS Programme of IGNOU. The centres are equipped with laboratory for conduct of practical of B.Sc. Programme and BLIS Programme. All the centres have library where in addition to the study material, audio video cassettes/CDs of IGNOU Programmes and reference books are also available. Teacher absenteeism has so far not been reported. The learners support centres have panel of academic counsellors (teachers). If one person is absent due to some reason or the other the counselling sessions are arranged with the help of other counsellors in the panel.